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Application No. 09/844,251
Filed: April 27, 2001
TC Art Unit: 2832
Confirmation No.: 8919

REMARKS

In the most recent Office Action, claims 12-15 and 20 were examined. Claim 15 is rejected. Claims 12-14 and 20 are allowed.

In response, claim 15 is canceled. Accordingly, claims 12-14 and 20 are pending in the present application. No new matter is added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action states that claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,300,152) in view of Zavracky (U.S. Patent No. 5,638,946). In particular, the Office Action states that while Kim discloses all the elements of claim 15 with the exception of a contact formed of Ru, the same is taught by Zavracky in an obvious combination. Without acceding to the correctness of the rejection, claim 15 is canceled from the application without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 12-14 and 20.

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CONCLUSION

With the cancellation of all rejected claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits notice to that effect. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance and issuance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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